

(the allmend), which his lord has alienated for his own benefit. The forests and streams are closed against him. He is subjected to forced labour, which makes the proper cultivation of his holding impossible. He is the victim of vicious game laws, which permit his lord to ride over his fields, but deprive him of the right to kill the game that destroys his crops. From these samples of his complaints it is evident that the peasants on the estate of Count von Lupfen, and on the neighbouring manors of the Hegau, where Joss Fritz was busy at his old trade of hatching conspiracy, had not a dog's life, and it is not therefore surprising that they gave ear to the summonses of the ex-landsknecht, Hans Muller of Bulgenbach, to put an end to their doggish existence by organised resistance. Hans, according to the chronicler, " was very fluent of speech and far-sighted, whose equal in speaking could not be found." He went from village to village, clad in a red cloak and bonnet, preaching rebellion and organising his rustic hearers. Thus organised, they marched on St Bartholomew's Day, 24th August 1524, under their red, white, and black banner, to Waldshut, over a thousand strong. Waldshut was a nest of heretics, and its inhabitants had their own grievances, mostly of a religious character, against their Austrian rulers, who had made a bonfire of Luther's works, and finished the performance by decapitating the heretic town clerk on the spot. These aggrieved Waldshutters welcomed Hans Muller and his little rustic army as brothers in a common cause, though they do not seem to have been professed heretics.

Thus the purely agrarian and social movement appears from the outset coalescing with the religious opposition of the time, which was most active in the towns, and the religious element becomes increasingly prominent in its further development, though the main factors remain social. The Bundschuh becomes a Christian brotherhood, and by the following spring, by means of agitation and organisation (in which, besides Muller, preachers like Hubmaier, Scheppler, and Miinzer were very active), embraced the Hegau, the Klettgau, the Allgau, yea, the whole of Upper Suabia, as far east as Kempten and Memmingen. The attempt of the Suabian League to arrest its growth by negotiation failed. Even the repulse of the exiled Duke Ulrich of Wurtemberg (Ulrich the peasant,